

Participant Information Sheet

Chemicals and their Users in the British Home, 1930 to 1980s

You are invited to participate in an oral history interview as part of a PhD project entitled “Chemicals and their Users in the British Home, 1930 to the 1980s”. This information sheet has been prepared to explain why the research is being done and what it will involve. You can decide whether or not to take part. You may change your mind at any time and you are free to withdraw without giving a reason. Please keep this information sheet for future reference.

What is the purpose of this study?

Perhaps surprisingly, the recent history of deliberate use of chemicals at home, other than soaps and detergents, has not been well researched. Ordinary everyday life is sometimes seen as too mundane or obvious to be documented. Participating in this project will help me to understand some of the context and user experiences related to using chemicals at home that are not recorded elsewhere. This recording will contribute to a richer history of domestic chemicals than can be researched simply from industry archives or promotional materials.

Why have I been invited to participate?

You are receiving information about this study perhaps because we have discussed the project at some time, or one of your acquaintances thought you might be interested and shared this information sheet with you. If you know anyone who would be interested in participating, please tell them about the project and ask them to contact me.

This is a study of everyday life, so your memories and experiences of shopping for and using chemicals or chemical products in your home or garden before the 1980s are of interest. Your participation will provide an aspect which is often missing from histories of technology: the perspective of the user.

What will happen if I take part?

You will be invited to take part in an interview, that with your permission will be audio-recorded. If you would like to participate, I will send you further paperwork to formalise the interview, consisting of copyright information, a recording agreement and consent forms. You can read through and ask any questions that will help you confirm whether you are willing to take part in the recorded interview.

Together we will arrange a time and a place that is suitable for audio recording your interview. This could be at your home, or at a quiet public space. We will review and sign the documents before the interview, then after the interview, I will check again that you're comfortable with the paperwork.

During the interview I will ask you to share memories and thoughts about obtaining and using chemicals for household tasks, gardening or hobbies involving chemicals, and

talking generally about the time period in question that's relevant to you. You might have decided to stop using certain chemicals, and I am interested in that too. The aim of this historical research is to find out about your uses and attitudes to chemicals, what you think influenced your choices.

Depending on how much you want to say, the recording could take around an hour or perhaps two hours. After the interview you will be sent a copy of the recording and the transcript that I made from it. You can check this for accuracy.

If you change your mind after agreeing to participate, you are free to withdraw without giving a reason. Withdrawing invalidates the permissions that you gave to use the recording. I will have to delete the recording and destroy any accompanying notes.

Will what I say in this interview be kept confidential?

The content of the recordings will inform my research and discussion, so I would like to be able to use what you say as an historical record. You can decide whether you would prefer your contribution to be anonymous, through using a respondent number or an alias, or whether you would like to be identified by name. The small number of interviews means that your identity may still be apparent, for example a listener could identify you from specific events, locations or roles revealed in your interview. If you disclose illegal activities, there are legal limits to the level of confidentiality that I can keep and I will approach the police if necessary.

For legal reasons, your real name and details will be recorded to give copyright to Oxford Brookes University (see below). These details will be on a separate form that is kept confidential. Information generated by the study must be retained in accordance with the University's policy on Academic Integrity. This means that it must be kept securely in paper or electronic form for a period of ten years after the project has been completed.

What does 'assigning copyright' mean?

Under the law, you own the copyright of your own recorded voice. This means that no one can use your recording in writing or in public without your permission. For the recording to be used in producing published research, or in any way that is publicly accessible, the University needs your written permission. It is better to get your permission now, than to contact you on each occasion that the material might be used in the future. Please ask if you would like any further information about copyright.

What happens to the results?

The interviews will help to shape my PhD dissertation and provide a user's view on the availability of chemicals and experiences using them at home. Excerpts from the recordings could be used as quotations within my written thesis or any other published material. Extracts from the recordings, unless complete anonymity has been requested, could be played when I give papers or presentations on the work, or in a future virtual or

real exhibition relating to the research.

I will prepare a summary based on the oral history material which I will provide to all participants. The finished PhD thesis and any associated published papers will be made available online through the University's freely accessible research depository, RADAR.

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), who has funded this research, would like the oral histories to be available to future researchers. The social history resource that you have helped to create will be valuable to other academic researchers and for exhibition curators.

What should I do if I want to take part?

Please use the reply slip, or email me.

Who is organising and funding the research?

Catherine Rushmore is organising and conducting the research as an Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded PhD student in the department of History, Faculty of Humanities and Social Science at Oxford Brookes University.

Who has reviewed the study?

This study has been reviewed and approved by The University Research Ethics Committee at Oxford Brookes University.

Contact for further information, questions, or to participate.

If you would like any further information about this research, you can contact me, Catherine Rushmore (12010923@brookes.ac.uk), or my supervisor Dr Viviane Quirke (vquirke@brookes.ac.uk)

If you would prefer to write, please do, c/o Dr Quirke, T 530, Oxford Brookes University, Gispy Lane, Oxford OX3 0BP

If you have any concerns about the way in which the study has been conducted, you can contact the Chair of the University Research Ethics Committee through their email address ethics@brookes.ac.uk

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Participant Reply Slip

You can email (12010923@brookes.ac.uk) or phone me (07970 876384) with the information listed on this slip.

Or you can post this slip to:

Catherine Rushmore c/o Dr V. Quirke, T 530, Oxford Brookes University, Gispy Lane,
Oxford OX3 0BP

I would like to participate in the above oral history research project. I understand that the aims and purposes of the study will be explained to me prior to the interview at which point I will be asked to sign a consent form.

I understand that the researcher will contact me to discuss the arrangement of an interview.

Name:

Address:

Email address:

Telephone number:

Please indicate whether you prefer to be contacted by telephone, email or post.